Fig. 4

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

Fig. 7

15: Nakane E-9 (1955-1956) 1967 AR7 Khasi AR7

Shella

Confederacy forms a more marked endogamous community, through being cut off geographically and economically from the rest of the Khasi, and socially from the neighbouring Hindu people.

The Economy and the People

Shella lies along the upper part of the Shella River and stretches upwards along the steep slope, looking down towards the Bengal plain. The climate of this part of the hills is considered to be one of the worst in tropical India for human habitation. The Bengal plain, though warmer than this area, is considered more healthy. This border land is the area of malaria, typhoid, black fever, cholera, etc. None of the Bengalee peasants dare to live in such an area. However, it is the most fertile for products such as betel-nuts, pan-leaves, oranges, bananas and pineapples, and it also produces limestone. These people seem to prefer to settle in this area and to enjoy its prosperity, at the expense of human lives every year, especially between March and September, the inhabitants suffer from various fevers and dysentery and other diseases, many of the weaker having death.

Before the Partition of India and Pakistan, the products of Shella were carried down the Shella River to Sylhet, one of the biggest centres in East Bengal, which brought unimaginable wealth to the Shella people. Their houses were built by carpenters from Sylhet. The style and structure of them houses were exceptionally elaborate for the Khasi. They purchased vast rice fields in the plain, which used to be cultivated by Bengalee and Garo labourers engaged by them. These Khasi do not themselves know how to cultivate rice fields; they have always been managers or landowners. Their boys used to be sent to high schools and colleges in Sylhet. As a result of their trading with the Bengalee, many of them read and speak fluent Bengalee. There is no difference between their style of clothing and that of the Bengalee, though the women maintain their traditional dress in the Shella style.

They have thus been distinguished from the rest of the Khasi not only geographically, but also economically and culturally. Their personality also differs sharply from the rest of the Khasi. They are very sociable, and quick, a quality lacking among the Khasi of Nongkynrih and Nongtalang. They are clever enough to deal with strangers. The upland Khasi say Shella people are very cunning. This remark shows one side of these people. They had to be cunning, since they traded with the Sylhet Bengalee who were said to be the most cunning of their race. Their role in the trade and in the history of the modernization of the Hills was considerable. For centuries they represented civilized Khasi owing to their contact with Hindu civilization, while the Hills remained in darkness. They assumed an important role when the British established an administration in the Hills, and rose up to now, many leading Khasi originated from this area, for instance, Lad Rai, the first interpreter of the British Headquarters at Cherrapunjee; Jashon Roy, who was the first Magistrate among the Khasi; Mahon Sing, a lawyer and Member of the Legislative Assembly (the grandson of Jashon Roy); Nichols Roy, Minister of Health and Prisons of the Assam Government, Member of the Legislative Assembly, and Missionary of the Church of God; D. R. Thomas (brother of Nichols Roy), Principal of the Cachari University, etc.

Through constant cultural contact with Hindu, and encouraged by their economic prosperity, the Shella Khasi, like the Jaintias, have been much influenced by Hindu culture. However, this does not mean that the people of Shella adopted the Hindu beliefs. Though there is a small Hindu shrine, and some ceremonial elements were borrowed from the Hindu, most of the

15: Nakane E-5 (1955-1956) 1967 AR7 Khasi AR7

like the Lotha-Nagas, the Cacharis and the Kukis. But after the period of economic prosperity as I shall describe in the next section, the Jaintiya people reached a rather high level of education, while most of the neighbouring tribes remained illiterate. Their standard of living likewise improved. Fashionable girls of Jaintiya who have studied at the Convent school in Shillong, and speak English and Hindi, cannot marry half-naked tribesmen who work in the jungle. They prefer to intermarry with Moslem, Punjabis or Assamese who belong to more sophisticated community, and through whom they can enjoy urban life. Thus the orientation of the intermarriage of the people of Jaintiya has changed, along with the growth of Jaintiya.

It should be noted that intermarriages come mostly through the contacts at Shillong, where people used to go once a week for the bazaar, rather than through direct contacts with neighbouring villages.

Economy of Jaintiya and its Relation to Neighbouring Tribes.

It is very interesting to find two different kinds of economy in the same ecological background. Jaintiya Khasi practise pan-land and orange cultivation and depend mainly on a trading economy, while the other neighbouring tribal peoples practise jhum cultivation, almost a subsistence economy. This situation has remained unchanged for the last fifty years since the establishment of Jaintiya village.

The first Jaintiya immigrants occupied one ridge of the mountain where the present Jaintiya is situated. Formerly, this land belonged to the Lotha-Nagas, one of the old inhabitants of the Cachar Hills, who possessed a vast jungle area for jhum cultivation. It seems that there was no objection to the Khasi occupying this small spot: it was apparently too small an area for the jhum cultivator —pan-land cultivation of the Khasi requires less than one twentieth of the land of the usual jhum cultivation. The Khasi who started pan-land cultivation were able to accumulate some capital, and after several years they started orange gardens. They had had experience of orange cultivation in their homeland, but this was the first time they had operated commercially.

The success of this orange cultivation was beyond their dreams. Hearing of good oranges at Jaintiya, many Bengalee merchants from Dacca, Sylhet, Silchar and Gauhati began to come to buy them. Moreover, the village had the great advantage of being situated near the railway station. Oranges were sold by carloads. Unimaginable wealth came to the Jaintiya people. Especially the founder's family, including his brother's and sister's, became extraordinarily wealthy; their income used to be Rs. 40,000 a year. The children were sent to the school which was established in the village and some were educated at colleges in Dacca, Sylhet and Shillong. The villagers had beautiful houses built by Manipuri and Bengalee carpenters. Actually the houses of Jaintiya were known as some of the best construction in Assam.

Like the Shella people, they were managers of gardens and employed workers. Wealthy households used to engage several labourers annually, most of them from Jaintia where the Jaintiya people had originated. These workers were provided with shelter in the servant quarters of their employer's house, but they had to provide meals for themselves. They were paid daily according to the work done. They were available to other households, when their employer had no work. Some labourers were also engaged locally among the Lotha-Nagas, the Cacharis and the Kukis, though not so many as among the Jaintia. These local tribes were fairly well occupied by their jhum cultivation, and not used to being employed as workers. Therefore, most of them were not regular

15: Nakane E-5 (1955-1956) 1967 AR7 Khasi AR7

workers and they were few in number.[1] They were particularly employed for such work as the clearing of jungle for new pan gardens in summer.

In the orange season (December to February) the number of workers increased and they were paid more: Rs. 1/8 were paid[2] for one load (one person carrying 80 pounds of oranges, from an orange garden to the railway station—about two miles). Usually a worker made three to five trips a day. Many workers from Jaintia used to come for this particular season.

Semi-permanent workers were engaged for wet rice fields. They were usually Hindu cultivators since these Khasi and other tribes do not know the technique of wet cultivation, plains people like the Biharese immigrants were engaged. These workers were provided with servants' quarters where they lived with their wives and children. However, very few Jaintiya households possessed rice fields.

The economic prosperity of Jaintiya reached its climax during the period from 1939 to 1940. Since 1942, the orange production has been decreasing. In 1943, a serious disease attacked the orange gardens as well as the pan-leaf gardens. Besides, by depriving Jaintiya, as it had Sheila, of their most important markets, Dacca and Sylhet, the Partition of India and Pakistan in 1947 caused a serious economic depression in the whole region. On the other hand, because of the past prosperity, the population has rapidly increased during the last ten years. The serious economic condition of Jaintiya is illustrated in the petition which was submitted by the Jaintiya people when the Governor of Assam visited those areas in January 1956. It runs thus:

"Since the last ten years or so, with the increase of population in the village and with the loss of fertility of the soil, the people were faced with economic depression. At present they are facing acute shortage of land they have also no scope to adopt other forms of cultivation like jhuming and wet rice cultivation, etc. Moreover, there has been successive attack of Bright's disease which destroyed and wiped out all the orange and pan gardens. And as such, majority of the families have to depend for their livelihood on daily wages.

It is indeed a serious situation for them, because the Khasi do not produce staple foods, such as rice; their economy is completely dependent on the trade of their products by which they purchase their main provisions, clothes, etc. Other peoples round Jaintiya, being jhum cultivators, can at least get rice and cotton, the minimum requirements, staple foods and clothing are available even in the worst conditions, so that they can at least maintain themselves though the standard of living is low. As I stated before, a few households in Jaintiya possessed rice fields, but the majority had none. Recently they rented some plots of jhum field for rice-cultivation from Zemi-Naga of neighbouring villages,[3] However, its yield was but a small percentage of their consumption. A few

1. If they had worked in the gardens of Jaintiya, they might have got more profit than from their own jhum fields. For one day's labour, they got Ans. 6. For one month, they could earn Rs. 15 with which they could buy about 2-3 maunds of rice (one maunds paddy cost Rs. 3-4). For one year it became 30 maunds, which was impossible to produce in a jhum field by a single person's labour.

2. These rates, including the figures of note 1, apply to 1956.

3. Jaintiya villagers told me that Zemi-Naga were kind enough to lend them their field for a negligible rent, though they had not enough for themselves. Zemi-Naga said that they owed much to Jaintiya in the past, so that now they sympathized with the condition of Jaintiya, and offered some parts of their jhum field.

15: Nakane ES (1955-1956) 1967 AR7 Khasi AR7

182 very wealthy *syndicate* still maintain their former economic activities, but
• 434 the majority have been impoverished, becoming daily labourers for the wealthy
ones or for rice contractors. Thus considerable internal economic differentia-
tion has begun to appear in the community.

Though the recent economic depression brought poverty to Jaintiga, the
182 standard of living is still strikingly higher than that of neighbouring tribes.
245 Studying such economic aspects of Jaintiga, I wondered at first why these
neighbouring tribes have remained as they were, except for temporary employ-
648 ment at Jaintia; why, looking at the prosperity of Jaintiga, they did not adopt
the way of the Jaintiga people?

Indeed some of them attempted to imitate the Jaintiga economy, but the
results were unfortunately not favourable to them. First, both pan-leaf and
orange cultivation were entirely new to the tribal peoples, and the technique
was quite different from that of dry rice cultivation in the *jhum* field. Pan
cultivation requires very delicate care which is almost impossible to manage
for people who have been accustomed to the primitive jhuming cultivation.
For instance, when they go into pan gardens, they have to wash themselves
and put on social clothes in order to prevent the spread of epidemic
leaf disease. Tribal people, who seldom wash their clothes, or merely go naked,
could hardly keep pan gardens. In this respect the Khasi are entirely different,
having specialized in this economy for a long period, even as they believe, from
time immemorial.

On the other hand, the technique of orange cultivation is much easier than
that of pan-leaf but it takes several years to obtain a yield, it requires consider-
able capital to begin with. For the *jhum* cultivators, who usually did not have
cash income to funds, it was almost impossible to start it, while the Khasi
were able to use funds from the selling of the pan-leaf. Furthermore, the
[423] management of such gardens, either pan-leaf or orange, differs also from that
of the *jhum* for as it entirely depends on individual enterprise based on private
land ownership, which is new for those tribes where the community owns the
land. Thereby the possibility of starting orange gardens is restricted to
special individuals among them belonging to exceptionally rich and powerful
households. A few households in neighbouring villages did, in fact, start orange
gardens, adopting the technique of the Jaintiga people. The was several trays
and they were expecting to have the yield around 1950. However, unfortunate-
ly, when the oranges began to come into production, orange disease started
in Jaintiga and spread all over these areas. Their dream therefore never came
true.

Besides oranges, some of them also established gardens of bananas, jackfruits,
and papayas, which were more successful than the oranges. These plantations
started much earlier than oranges in this area, though not in great quantity.
The products were sold to the Jaintiga people who sold them again to Bengalee
merchants. A question arises why were they not sold directly to Bengalee
merchants, when the profit would have been much greater.

182 This aspect of the market economy touches upon very interesting problems
44 concerning the relations between tribal and Hindu peoples. Such tribal peoples
648 who live on a primitive subsistence level usually do not have direct contact
with the peoples of the plains. There is always an intermediary between them.
In this case it is the Jaintiga people who have both tribal life and Hindu life.
They are also in between culturally. If a tribal cultivator sells his produce
to a Hindu merchant, he would most certainly be cheated by the cunning
merchant, as he is quite ignorant of trade. Tribal men do deal with markets
directly, but only on a small scale as Haflong bazaar, and without making a
profit: it is just the exchange of their household or *jhum* produce for an iron

19: Assam G-5 (1958) 1963 AR7 Ghosh AR7

In border area and project area the percentage of literates is worked out at 24 and 31 respectively -a comparatively high figure for a rural area. This, however, cannot be regarded as a true index of literacy in the rural area of the district for the fact that villages from border area and project area were purposively selected almost all of which by virtue of their bigness in size and location in vantage points, happened to possess at least one school for quite a long time. The average picture for the district as a whole is brought out by the percentage of literates in the general area which is only 17. A comparison of this figure with that of 1951 census for the rural areas of the district which is only 12 per cent shows that during the last eight years there has been an increase in the percentage of literacy.

As will be seen from table above the proportion of literates among males is higher than that among females throughout the district.

Economic Status

5.5: The following table shows the number of persons in the sample villages by sex and economic status.

TABLE C 5

Number of Persons by Sex and Economic Status

Economic Status	Number of persons in								
	Tezpur area			Project area			General area		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Cultivators									
Percentage to total population									
Earning dependents									
Percentage to total population									
Non-earning dependents									
Percentage to total population									
Total population									

From the above table it is seen that the proportion of earners in the Border area, Project area and General area are respectively 39 per cent, 43 per cent and 35 per cent of the corresponding total population. Thus each earner has to support himself and roughly one dependent. Thus the burden of dependency is not very heavy in the district. This is because of the fact that men, women and adolescents all join the labour force. Number of women engaged wholly on domestic works is few. Only in big families having a number of women, one or two of them are engaged in domestic works, otherwise the Khasi women attend to the domestic works in addition to their work in the field.

From table C.5.1 in the appendix it will be seen that respectively 4.7 per cent, 7.8 per cent and 14.2 per cent of the earners in border area, Project area and General area are below 15 years of age.

3.6—Attempt was made to study the employment position in the selected villages. For this purpose the following definition of employed and unemployed persons was adopted.

Persons working for pay or profit on one day during a period of 30 days preceding the date of enquiry would be classified as employed. Those who did not work on any day during the last 30 days, may be employed or unemployed. The person is unemployed if—

(i) He who was without a job for the whole reference period.

(ii) Who was seeking one, and

(iii) Who was in a position to accept job if offered one.

A person is also unemployed if he did not work because of his prevented illness, believed that no work was available, or was expecting to return to a job from which he had been indefinitely laid off.

On the other hand a person is employed if he had a job, although temporarily absent from work during the reference period due to illness, vacation, industrial dispute or being laid off temporarily. Also a person would be considered employed if he was waiting to take up a new job which he had been offered or to start a new business.

19: Assam G-5 (1958) 943 A87 Ghosi A87

CHAPTER IX

Income and Expenditure

9.1 The great majority of rural people are members of families of two or more persons sharing a common income earned mostly by joint efforts of family members and also disbursed in supplying the consumption needs of the family as a whole. An attempt is made below, therefore, to analyse the aspects of income and expenditure of the rural families family-wise.

9.2 It has already been mentioning that the majority (i.e., above 75 per cent) of the families of all the three areas pursued agriculture as a principal occupation. Some of these families follow cottage industries, trade, transport, labour, etc as subsidiary occupations. The rest of the families had either agriculture as subsidiary occupation or were independent of agriculture. The urban section of these families were non-agricultural labourers. The following table gives the distribution of families in different income groups

TABLE C-1

Frequency distribution of families in different income groups

Income Group Rs.	No. of families: Border area — Mainly agricultural	Border area — Non-agricultural	Border area — Total	Border area — Average annual gross income per household (Rs.)	Project area — Mainly agricultural	Project area — Non-agricultural	Project area — Total	Project area — Average annual gross income per household (Rs.)	Control area — Mainly agricultural	Control area — Non-agricultural	Control area — Total	Average annual income per family (Rs.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
1. Below 600	—	1 (1.0)	1 (.84)	600.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. 600 to below 840	6 (.84)	10 (1.0)	16 (.93)	738.00	2 (1.43)	6 (1.00)	12 (1.11)	779.00	1 (.83)	—	1 (.83)	600.00
3. 840 to below 1080	100 (14.1)	12 (12.0)	112 (13.3)	958.79	60 (42.86)	8 (1.33)	68 (6.31)	1047.06	10 (8.33)	2 (2.0)	12 (10.0)	976.67
4. 1080 to below 1320	227 (32.0)	60 (60.0)	287 (34.2)	1186.06	120 (85.71)	47 (7.83)	167 (15.5)	1196.40	48 (40.0)	17 (17.0)	65 (54.17)	1200.00
5. 1320 to below 1560	347 (48.9)	27 (27.0)	374 (44.6)	1438.44	11 (7.86)	83 (13.83)	94 (8.73)	1457.02	48 (40.0)	6 (6.0)	54 (45.0)	1466.48
6. 1560 to below 2160	120 (16.9)	47 (47.0)	167 (19.9)	1,800.00	20 (14.3)	80 (13.33)	100 (9.29)	1,800.00	12 (10.0)	12 (12.0)	24 (20.0)	1800.00
7. 2160 to below 3240	11 (1.5)	4 (4.0)	15 (1.8)	2,400.00	2 (1.43)	2 (.33)	4 (.37)	2400.00	1 (.83)	1 (1.0)	2 (1.67)	2400.00

C-1 (1960) 1961 1962 1963

TABLE C-1—continued.

From table above, it is difficult to judge the relative prosperity of agricultural and non-agricultural families. The annual gross income of 68 per cent of the agricultural families is less than Rs.750·00 a year while that of 87 per cent of them is below Rs.1,500 a year. Thus the remaining 13 per cent of the families only have a gross annual income of above Rs.1,500 a year. Among non-agricultural families the corresponding proportions are 32 per cent, 79 per cent and 21 per cent. Thus proportion of non-agricultural families with annual gross income less than Rs.750, is greater than the corresponding proportion of agricultural families. The petty traders, porters and other non-agricultural labourers who are necessarily very poor constitute this non-agricultural class. On the other hand proportion of non-agricultural families with annual gross income of more than Rs.750 exceeds the corresponding proportion for agricultural families. These non-agricultural families comprise of a good number of business men, contractors, etc., who are comparatively a bit well off than the agriculturists.

In Project area proportion of agricultural families and non-agricultural families with annual gross income of less than Rs.750 is 36 per cent and 29 per cent respectively as against 49 per cent and 52 per cent of their respective counterpart in Border area. Proportions of families with gross income below Rs.1,500 a year is 84 per cent and 66 per cent indicating that proportions of agricultural as well as non-agricultural families with income above Rs.1,500 a year are greater than their corresponding counterparts in Border area.

In general area villages it is significant to note that proportion of agricultural families with gross annual income of over Rs.2,000 is negligible (·01 per cent) while those under Rs.750 and Rs.1,500 are 63 per cent and 93 per cent respectively.

Table below further reveals that 58 per cent of the gross income in the Border area, 34 per cent in the Project area and 86 per cent in the General area is earned by families in the income group less Rs.1,500 constituting as much as 85 per cent of the total number of families in the respective areas.

TABLE G-2

Percentage distribution of income and families in different income groups

Annual income (Rs.)	Border area		Project area		General area	
	Families	Income earned	Families	Income earned	Families	Income earned
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1. Less than 750	49.5	58.4	36.3	33.8	93.00	85.5
2. 750 to less than 1500	18.2	19.2	14.1	22.6	7.0	14.5
3. 1500 to less than 2000	2.1	4.7	1.9	5.0	..	..
4. 2000 and above	9.2	13.7	9.7	18.6	..	..
Total ...	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

19: Assam C-S (1958) 330.9 S57 Shas: S57

Considering all the families together if we classify the families with gross annual income below Rs.750 as low income group, those between Rs.750 to less than 2,000 as medium income group and those above Rs. 2,000 as high income group, we get the following proportion of families in different areas :—

	Low income group	Medium income group	High income group	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Border area	45.00	44.00	9.00	100.00
Project area	24.45	68.81	6.74	100.00
General area	40.71	54.00	5.29	100.00

Thus we see that majority of the families are concentrated towards the medium income group in Project area and General area while proportion of medium income group families is least in Border area. Proportion of low-income group families is least in Project area and highest in Border area closely followed by General area. Thus it appears that Project area villages enjoy a comparatively better economy than Border area and General area villages.

9.3 The greater bulk of the agricultural families income is derived from sale of agricultural produce. Most of them supplement their income through non-agricultural labour while others do it through Cottage Industries, trade, etc. The Non-agricultural families derived their major income from non-agricultural enterprises. The following table shows the contribution of different components to the average annual gross income of families.

TABLE C.6

Components of average annual gross income per family

Source of income	Agricultural families				Non-agricultural families				All families			
	Value of produce				Value of produce				Value of produce			
	Consumed at home	Marketed	Total	% to (3)	Consumed at home	Marketed	Total	% to (7)	Consumed at home	Marketed	Total	% to (11)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Units used→	Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.		Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.		Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.	
1. Agriculture and Animal husbandry												
2. Non-agricultural enterprises—												
(a) Household industry (manufacture and handicrafts)												
(b) Trade												
(c) Transport												
3. Rents, profession wages, etc.												
4. Remittances												
5. Miscellaneous												
Total												

* Negligible

TABLE C.6—contd.

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	(vii)	(viii)	(ix)	(x)	(xi)	(xii)	
General crops—	Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.		Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.		Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.		
1. Agriculture and Animal Husbandry	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
2. Non-agricultural enterprises—													
(a) Small scale manufactures and Handicrafts	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
(b) Trade	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
(c) Transport	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
3. Services, professions, misc. etc.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
4. Liquidation of loans	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
5. Miscellaneous	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Total	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	

From the above table it is seen that average annual gross income of predominantly agricultural families in Border area, Project area and General area are respectively Rs 1,[illegible], Rs 1,[illegible] and Rs [illegible]. Apparently it appears that people in the General area are poorer than those in Border area. This however cannot be said to be true, for, from a consideration of the distribution of families in table G-5 it will be seen that average income figure for Border area and Project area are in fact inflated due to existence of a number of families in higher income group.

To the income of families in Border area agriculture and Animal husbandry contribute [illegible] per cent followed by Labour-service-profession which contribute [illegible] per cent. Labour includes agricultural labour also. Miscellaneous sources such as charity, remittance, loan realised, etc., contribute 1 per cent. Others in order of importance are liquidation of assets, non-agricultural occupations such as [illegible], Cottage Industries, etc., which respectively contribute [illegible] per cent and [illegible] per cent only.

In project area main contributors are agriculture and Animal husbandry and Labour-service, profession etc., accounting to [illegible] per cent and [illegible] per cent respectively, followed by Liquidation of assets and non-agricultural pursuits such as trade and cottage industries which respectively contribute [illegible] per cent and 1 per cent of the families total gross income.

Main contributors to family income in General area are in order of importance agriculture, Labour-service, profession, etc., non-agricultural occupation, and Liquidation of assets, which respectively accounts for [illegible] per cent, [illegible] per cent, 1 per cent, and 1 per cent of the families total gross income.

It is also seen that of the total average income of families, value of items produced at farm or at home and consumed at home accounts for [illegible] per cent of the families total annual gross income in Border area, [illegible] per cent in Project area and [illegible] per cent in General area. This average annual cash receipt of an agricultural family in the three areas comes to [illegible] per cent, [illegible] per cent and [illegible] per cent respectively, of the families average gross annual income, i.e., Rs [illegible], Rs [illegible] and Rs [illegible] respectively.

Components of average annual net income per family

Village group	Type of family	Average income per family							Per Peg expense	
		Agriculture and allied activities	Non-agriculture of enterprise: Small scale industries and Handicrafts	Trade	Services, govt. Semi-govt. wages etc.	Employment of wages	Miscellaneous	Total	Average net income per family	Average net income per family
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
A. Backward area	1. Agricultural labour family									
	2. Non-agricultural labourer family									
Overall	—	—								

TABLE 04—contd.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
B. Private sector	2. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	3. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total	—	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	—	
C. Grand total	2. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	3. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total	—	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	—	

6.6 Considering non-agricultural families it is seen that average gross annual income per family in Sadar area, Project area and Control area are respectively Rs. [illegible] and Rs. [illegible] respectively. The main contributor to this income in Sadar area is Trade followed by Service, Profession, Labour and Agriculture and Animal husbandry. Same in Project area are Labour-Service-Profession followed by Trade, small scale manufacture and agriculture and Animal husbandry. The comparatively higher average income from small scale manufacture and handicraft is due to existence of quite a good number of liquor distillers with quite a large amount of annual income. Main contributors to gross annual income of non-agricultural families in Control area in order of importance are agriculture and animal husbandry, service-profession and labour. It is significant that among the non-agricultural families also agriculture and animal husbandry emerge to be the biggest contributor. This is due to the fact that in Control area villages there are a large number of Nepali families whose principal occupation is cattle rearing and earned enough to selling milk, ghee, and livestock. These families were classed as non-agricultural families.

6.7 Of the gross income, agriculturers spend a portion in their farms on items such as purchase of seed, manure etc., cost of maintenance of livestock, wages and salaries to labourers, and transport of produce while other spend a portion on running their household consumption unit as purchase of merchandise for trading, purchase of plant and machinery and raw materials for household consumption, wages and salaries for employees, etc. The net annual income per family, as will be evident from table C-6, comes to Rs. [illegible] in Sadar area, Rs. [illegible] in Project area and Rs. [illegible] in Control area. The corresponding figures for agricultural families being Rs. [illegible], Rs. [illegible] Rs. [illegible] and for non-agricultural families Rs. [illegible], Rs. [illegible] and Rs. [illegible] respectively.

The following table shows the annual expenditure of families in running their enterprises.

varied between 1.08 per cent to 2.50 per cent in the three areas. It is very likely that this figure will be an under-estimate due to the fact that people addicted to it do not like to admit so. The existence of a large number of licensed liquor distilleries - numbering upto 5 in a single village, and the brisk trade in these distilleries bear testimony to the fact that a large share of family income is drained out through liquor.

Among miscellaneous items clothing and footwear accounted for nearly 6 per cent in Nandi area, 8 per cent in Pokot area and 9 per cent in Central area. Next to it in importance is medicine and durable which accounted for about 5 per cent of the total annual expenditure in all the three areas.

Generally speaking, the comparatively high percentage of expenditure on food and low percentages on other items like clothing, house and its repair, education, etc., indicates a low standard of living of the rural families in general.

4.8. It may be of some interest to know how the families belonging to various economic groups divide their income between their current living expenses and other outlays on goods and services. The picture of the family expenditure pattern is summarised in the following table.

TABLE G 9

Analysis of family expenditure in different income groups

Number Items	Income group											
	(Rs.)	Below Rs. 100	100-149	150-199	200-249	250-299	300-349	350-399	400-449	450-499	500-549	550-599	600 and above
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
1. No. of families		1	29	104	227	174	168	99	77	74	57	34	60
2. Average gross income per family	...	90.00	128.48	174.71	224.14	274.14	323.81	373.74	423.51	473.24	523.51	572.65	1,028.33
3. Average savings per family	...	0.00	0.00	3.48	9.71	20.14	34.88	48.74	63.51	78.24	98.51	122.65	328.33
4. Average net income per family	...	90.00	128.48	171.23	214.43	254.00	288.93	325.00	360.00	395.00	425.00	450.00	700.00
5. Average expenditure per family	...	90.00	128.48	171.23	214.43	254.00	288.93	325.00	360.00	395.00	425.00	450.00	700.00
6. Percentage of expenditure on-													
(a) Food	...	100.00	90.00	88.00	77.00	70.00	65.00	61.00	57.00	53.00	49.00	46.00	41.00
(b) Tax, rebates and drugs	...		2.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	5.00	6.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	9.00
(c) Fuel and Lighting			10.00	7.00	8.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
(d) Clothing	...		2.00	2.00	3.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	9.00	10.00	11.00	12.00
(e) Miscellaneous	...		2.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	9.00	10.00

TABLE G 5—contd

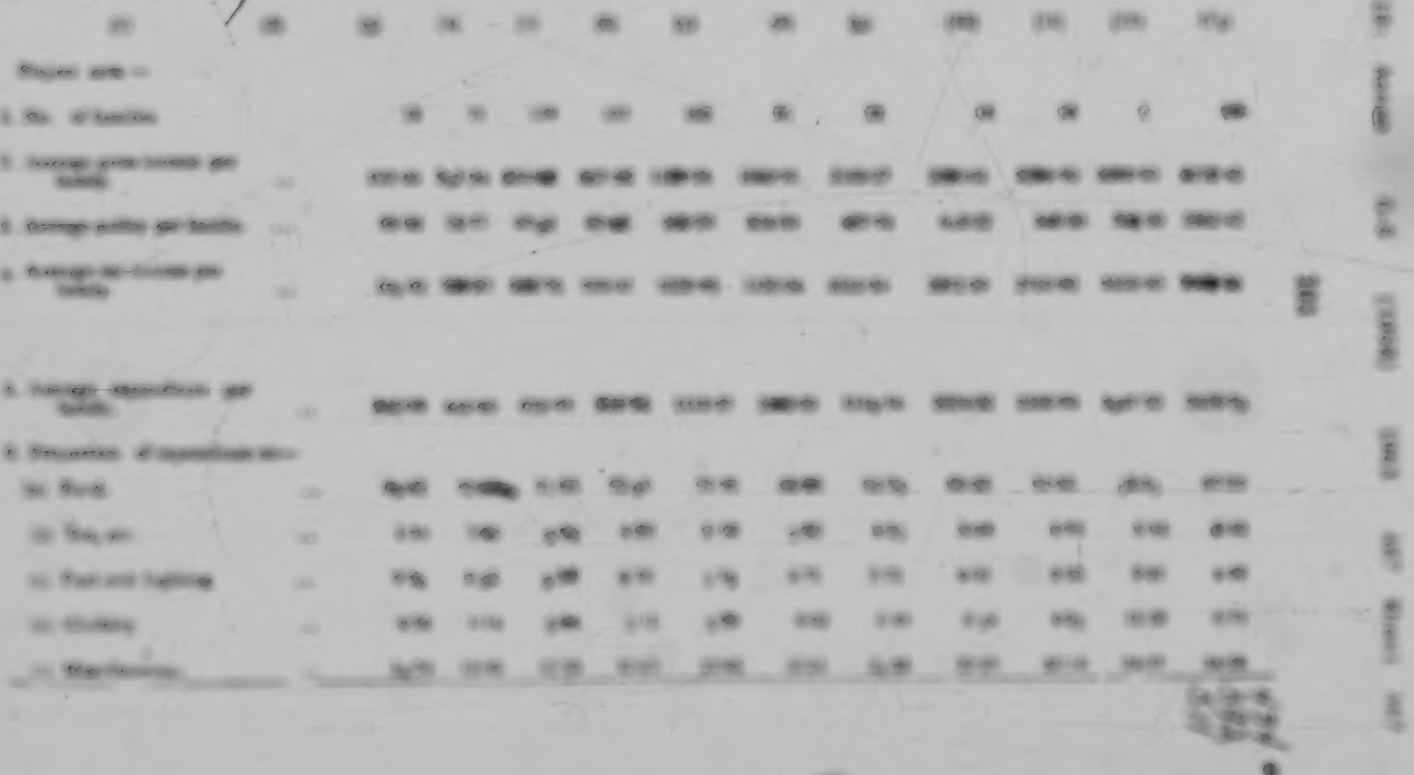

TABLE G 9—contd

General Items (1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
1. No. of families		1	12	48	88	44	12		1	—	—	
2. Average gross income per family	...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	...	[illegible]	—	—	—
3. Average value per family	...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	...	[illegible]	—	—	—
4. Average net income per family	...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	...	[illegible]	—	—	—
5. Average expenditure per family	...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	...	[illegible]	—	—	—
6. Proportion of expenditure on—												
(a) Food	...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	...	[illegible]	—	1	—
(b) Fuel, etc.	...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	...	[illegible]	—	—	—
(c) Fuel and lighting	...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	...	[illegible]	—	—	—
(d) Clothing	...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	...	[illegible]	—	—	—
(e) Miscellaneous	...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	...	[illegible]	—	—	—

Page

19: Assam G-5 (1958) 1963 AR7 Khasi AR7

It is noticed that food is the largest single item of expenditure at every income level demanding about two-thirds or more of the average total all expenditure. It is significant to note that money outlays on food increase markedly at successive income level. This wide range of expenditure is the result of very low standard of food consumption in the low income groups and also possibly of increasing number of members per family in the higher income groups.

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592
511

One striking feature revealed by the summary table of family income and expenditure given above is the average net deficit shown by the families of almost each income-group, except perhaps marginal surplus in respect of a few income-groups in the higher level. Thus for majority of the families the entire family income was not adequate on the average to meet current outlays on food and other necessities and comforts of daily living. Even the advantage of comparatively large average income was more than balanced by the larger differential increase in the family expenditure due either to their larger family size or comparatively higher standard of living or both.

426 Of the total number of loans 61 per cent in Border area, 10 per cent in Project area and 29 per cent in General area were free of interest while rate of interest for 9 per cent, 30 per cent and 60 per cent respectively of the loans in the three areas were found to be 25 per cent or more per annum which in some cases went upto 200 per cent.

241 434 592 10.8. Farm output of 97 per cent of the families in Border area, 58 per cent of families in Project area and 68 per cent of families in General area were less than Rs. 500 a year, while 3 per cent, 23 per cent and 1 per cent of the families in the respective area earned more than Rs. 2,000.00 a year from their farms. Of the total number of farms fetching less than or Rs. 500.00 a year in Border area 35 per cent of them are medium sized farms and 0 per cent large sized farms, the corresponding proportions for Project area and General area being 21 per cent, 1 per cent, 27 per cent and 1 per cent.

24 433 10.9. In Border area the most important crops are oranges, betel nut, paddy, and betel leaf which respectively accounted for 34 per cent, 27 per cent, 19 per cent and 9 per cent of the total harvested area. In Project area paddy and oranges are the most important crop which accounted respectively for 82 per cent and 8 per cent of the total harvested area. The most important crops in the General area are paddy and potato which respectively accounted for 61 per cent and 7 per cent of the total harvested area.

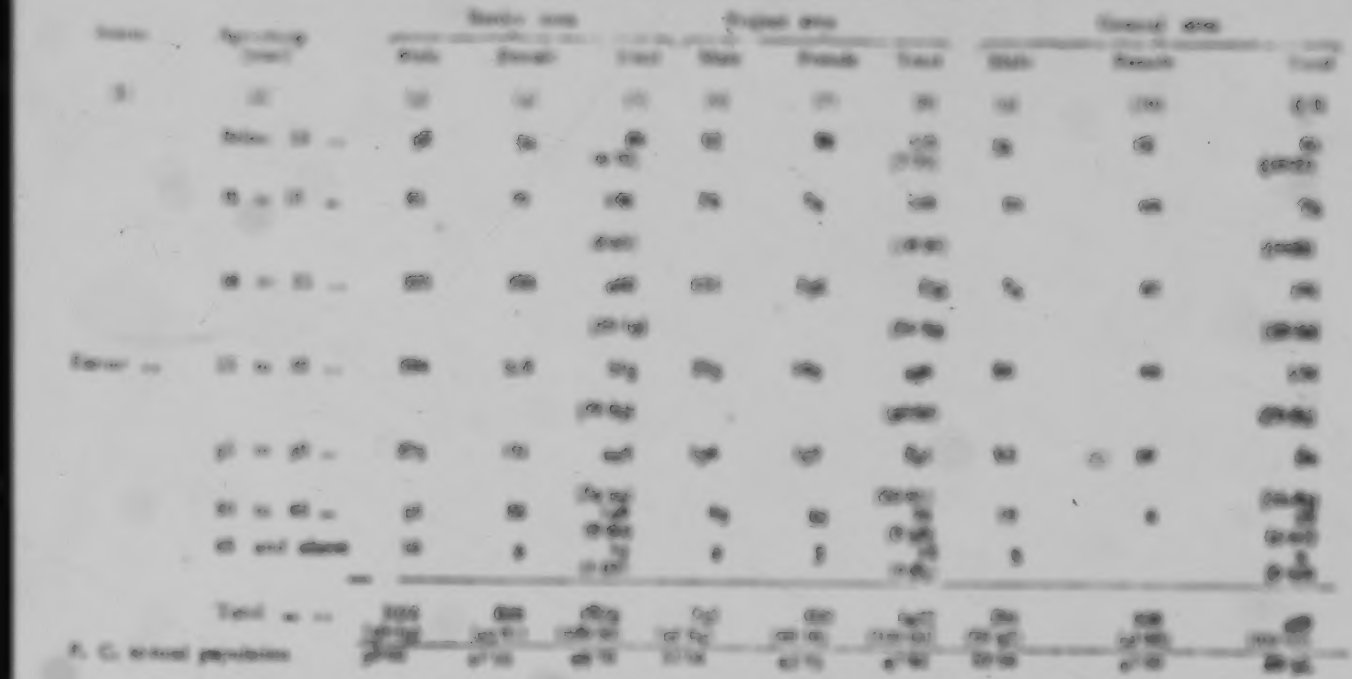
On the basis of data collected for all the villages investigated average yield per acre worked out at paddy 11.65 maunds, potato 21.61 maunds, oranges 5.79 lacs (2916 numbers) and betelvine 2.95 lacs (12960 numbers). These yield exhibited wide variation among the three areas.

434 592 10.10. Proportions of families with annual gross income of less than Rs. 750, Rs. 750 to less than Rs. 2,000, and above Rs. 2,000, were respectively found to be 69 per cent, 25 per cent and 6 per cent in Border area, 34 per cent, 60 per cent and 6 per cent in Project area and 65 per cent, 34 per cent and 1 per cent in General area. Average annual gross income per family worked out at Rs. 1,079.20 in Border area, Rs. 1,229.40 nP. in Project area and Rs. 804.36 nP. in General area which for predominantly agricultural and non-agricultural families respectively stood at Rs. 1,025.06 nP. and Rs. 1,161.94 nP. in Border area, Rs. 1,095.23 nP. and 1,644.36 nP. in Project area and Rs. 673.98 nP. and 780.04 nP. in General area. In all the three areas main contributors to family income were agriculture, service-profession-labour and trade accounting respectively for 41 per cent, 35 per cent and 15 per cent of the total average income in Border area, 37 per cent, 40 per cent and 9 per cent in Project area and 53 per cent, 36 per cent and 5 per cent in General area.

The net annual income per family in different income groups varied between Rs. 60 to 2,849 in Border area, between Rs. 110 to Rs. 3,503 in Project area and between Rs. 91 to Rs. 2,304 in General area. The average over all per family net annual income worked out at Rs. 853 in Border area, Rs. 989 in project area and Rs. 760 in General area and the same per capita at Rs. 231 in Border area, Rs. 216 in Project area and Rs. 153 in General area.

TABLE C—0 0

Classification of population by Economic Status



428 to the estate of his wife, or to her nearest relatives if there are no children. The rank and value of a deceased male descend to his brother; when no brother exists, then to the male children of his mother's nearest (maternal aunt); should no maternal aunt have no male children living, then to the children female children. When no relatives are to be found, the property of the deceased goes to the ruler of the country; or if a man dies leaving no relatives other than wife and children, i.e. no relatives on the mother's side, the property in this case also goes to the ruler, who, as the wife and children cannot preserve the name of the deceased, takes charge of them, and for so doing takes all the property also. With regard to the inheritance of the Lower Hills or Shelā, the custom as to succession is as follows:—Property belonging to a subject of Shelā is divided into two classes:—(1) Property inherited from ancestors, which descends to the nearest of kin or to the relative of a deceased person who has partaken his absorption. (2) Property acquired during the lifetime of the holder, which is inherited by the children, whose duty it is to provide for the maintenance of their mother until she is married or dies.'

• 426 448 342 152 342 180 242 434 276

NATIONAL CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLE.—The Khāsis and the Synteng are as a people prosperous. Common labourers, if adult males, can earn wages as high as one shilling per diem, and adult females as high as eightpence. The dwellings of the well-to-do classes are generally constructed of masonry, with thatched roof and plank floor, and divided into two or three rooms. The furniture consists of a bedstead (*khyrpū*), a mat or two (*sawē*), some cooking utensils, and a few knives. The ordinary peasants and poorer classes construct their huts of stone, mud, or plank walls, with a thatch or cane roof. These are fitted with wooden platforms or loose planks placed on the ground to serve as beds. The food of the well-to-do classes consists of rice, fish when obtainable, fowl or meat, curry, vegetables, oil, hog's lard, fermented and spirituous liquor. It may be estimated that the living expenses of an average household of this class would be about Rs. 25 or £2, per a month, valuing the articles of consumption at *bāzār* prices. An ordinary husbandman or labourer lives on rice, dry fish, occasionally a little meat, oil, or hog's lard. *Pān* leaf, betel-nut, and lime are essential to the comfort of all the hill people, who are inveterate chewers of *pān*. They commence at an early age, and are rarely seen without a *pān* leaf in their mouths; the females are quite

distinguished from the province. Visitors will there see many or four-in-hand or a-four, with the usual accompaniment of side horses. The estimated cost of maintaining an average family of the labouring class is about Rs. 8 or £0. 16. a month.

Towns: Inhabitants.—There are no towns in the usual acceptance of the word; but the chief places in the Hills, looked upon by the inhabitants as cities, are Shillong, Jowai, Cherra Pinji, and Gauhati. According to the Census of 1872, Shillong had only 1,383 inhabitants, Cherra Pinji 223, and Jowai 2,000. Jowai, however, is a collection of reed hunters, and the population of Shillong has entirely altered since the date of the Census. The latter place first became the Civil Station in 1864, in substitution for Cherra Pinji; and when Assam was erected into an independent Province in 1874, it was selected as the permanent seat of the Local Government. The Chief Commissioner resides there, and also the heads of all departments in the Administration. The area of the Station is 3 miles in length by 1½ or 2½ miles in breadth. A considerable native population is already settled, and is increasing from day to day. One of the largest weekly markets in Sylhet is held in the Jaintia, and with a view to facilitate access to the Station, which is the sanitarium for the Province of Assam, a cart road has recently been completed to Gauhati on the Brahmaputra, which will tend to make the place more and more important. An excellent water supply is introduced into Shillong through an aqueduct which has to ascend to the neighbouring hill streams, and sanitary measures are carefully enforced. Large sums of money have annually been expended on the erection of the public buildings necessary for the offices of the administration. A printing-press has been established, from which issue all the official documents and reports of the Province. The climate is excellent, the temperature being more equable than that of any other hill station in India, and therefore admirably suited to the constitution of Europeans. There is a church at Shillong, and a chaplain on the Bengal establishment officiates both there and at Gauhati. The cantonments were occupied in 1873 by the 43d Regiment of Assam Light Infantry, with three outposts. The strength was 9 European officers, 18 native commissioned officers, 60 non-commissioned officers, 770 fighting men, and 56 paid camp followers and non-combatants; grand total, 933. The total cost, including contingencies, was Rs. 1,83,190, or £18,319.

ACCOUNT OF KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS.

326 manufacture of iron, in which the entire blacksmith class employs
362 hired labourers, the other industries are generally followed by
363 families in their own houses. No class of labourers are hereditarily
attached to any manufacture in a manner that affects their personal
452 freedom. The system of advancing money for manufacturing pur-
poses does not obtain in the Khási and Jáintiá Hills. The total
• 439 value of the manufactures of the District is stated to be between
£ [illegible] and £ [illegible] per annum. No local manufactures are carried
on by means of imported capital.

439 COMMERCE AND TRADE.—The external commerce of the Khási
and Jáintiá Hills is chiefly conducted on the southern boundary,
through the District of Sylhet. The total value is more considerable
than might be expected, owing to the fact that these Hills
practically possess the monopoly of supplying Bengal with lime,
potatoes, and oranges. Other important articles of export are raw
cotton, stick-lac, betel-nut and pán leaves, and bay leaves or tez-
pát. The exportation of iron, which was once large, has now almost
ceased. The chief imports consist of rice, dried fish, cotton cloth,
salt, and tobacco. On the whole, it would appear that the course
of trade is almost equally balanced. Trade statistics of more or
less value are in existence. The earliest of such statistics are to
be found in the Report of Mr. W. J. Allen, dated 1858. The
information there given was based for the most part upon oral state-
ments furnished by numerous native traders to Mr. Hudson, who
then filled the office of Principal Assistant-Commissioner. It may
be accepted as 'a fair representation of the state of trade in
439 the Hills' at that time. The imports and exports on the Assam
439 side were each estimated at about Rs. 15,000, or £1500. The trade
with the markets in the Surmá valley was much larger. The total
of the exports was valued at Rs. 700,000, or £70,000, giving a
profit to the traders of Rs. 170,705, or £17,070. The chief items
were:—Limestone, 1,700,000 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 306,000;
potatoes, 30,000 *maunds*, value Rs. 125,000; oranges, 45,000,000
in number, value Rs. 78,750; smelted iron, 45,000 *maunds*, value
Rs. 67,500; cotton, 12,000 *maunds*, value Rs. 42,000; betel-nuts,
value Rs. 37,500; coal, 25,000 *maunds*, value Rs. 12,500. The total
value of the imports was estimated at Rs. 350,000, or £35,000,
being *just one-half* the value of the exports; the estimated profits
are given as Rs. 44,325, or £4432. The *chief* items were:—Rice,
150,000 *maunds*, value Rs. 225,000; cloth of sorts, Rs. 25,000;

lak, betel and cloth), Rs. 70,000; salt, 10000 maunds, value Rs. 10,000. For the last three years, from 1874-75 to 1876-77, detailed tables of the external commerce have been drawn up by the successive Deputy Commissioners in charge of the District. There is, however, no organised system of trade registration, and the Chief Commissioner of Assam has expressed the opinion that the figures "cannot be at all relied upon." The items vary greatly year by year, which is partly due to the different principles of valuation adopted. For the year 1874-75 the total exports were valued at Rs. 1,331,831, or £133,183, being just double the estimated value twenty years ago; the imports were valued at Rs. 1,559,500, or £155,950, being an increase in the same period of nearly forty-fold. The excess value of exports was Rs. 171,331, or £17,133. In 1875-76 the exports were valued at Rs. 1,501,761, or £150,176; the imports at Rs. 1,613,455, or £161,345, showing an excess on the export side of Rs. 111,706, or £11,170. The values for 1876-77, given in full on the following pages (pp. 178, 179), are quoted from the Administration Report for that year. They are based partly upon returns of trade at the ports of Shillong and Jaintiápur, and partly upon such approximations as could be supplied by local traders. The total value of the exports amounts to Rs. 1,603,330, or £160,333; that of the imports to Rs. 1,576,483, or £157,648, showing a balance of Rs. 26,847, or £2684, in favour of the District.

The export of limestone in 1876-77 was 1,600,000 maunds, valued at Rs. 480,000, at the rate of Rs. 300 for 1000 maunds. These figures show an increase in quantity, but a large increase in value, over the estimate of twenty years ago. The exportation system of stone walls in Bengal shows a total export during 1876-77 from the two Districts of Sylhet and Cáchár of 1,056,139 maunds of lime and limestone, valued at Rs. 340,108 at the rate of 12 annas per maund. The difference between these two sets of figures, for the same year is very considerable. It may be partly explained by the consideration that the Bengal estimate of value includes the stone after it has been calcined and reduced to lime. The trade in limestone is chiefly in the hands of Messrs. Inglis & Co., whose depot is at Chhaták, on the Surmá river. The connection of this firm with the trade of the Khási Hills is of very long standing. The founder, Mr. Henry Inglis, was the son-in-law of

[Sentence continued on page 178.

EXPORTS OF IMPORTS INTO THE KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS AND THE YEAR 1876-77.

Imports	Number or Quantity	Value	Rs.
Rice, paddy and grain,			
Cotton twist,			
Cotton piece-goods,			
Salt,			
Betel-nuts,			
Spices,			
Tobacco,			
Ghi,			
Sugar,			
Vegetables and fruits,			
Cocoanuts and gourds,			
Betel-leaves,			
Fish and dry fish,			
Oils,			
Animals,			
Hides,			
Iron and ironmongery,			
Lac,			
Cotton,			
Earthenware,			
Brass,			
Lead,			
Silk,			
Wax,			
Woollen,			
Cotton cloths,			
Silk and cotton cloths,			
Silk,			
Arms and ammunition,			
Gold and silver lace,			
Other articles from			
Wines and liquors,			
Miscellaneous Native goods,			
Total,			

[Sentence continued from page 137.]

Colonel Lister, who filled the office of Political Agent from 1833 to 1850. In 1837, when Mr. Allen drew up his Report on the District, the trade both in lime and oranges was a monopoly of this Mr. Ingle. The stone is exported to Chittak and other marts on the Surma river, where some portion is burned and made into lime, and the remainder sold in the rough. The trade name in Bengal is "Sylhet lime."

The export of potatoes in 1876-77 was 100,000 maunds, valued at Rs. 300,000, or £30,000, at the rate of Rs. 1. 8 per maund.

[Text continued on page 139.

EXPORTS OF CITRUS FRUIT FROM CHINA AND JAPAN DURING THE YEAR 1878-79.

PORTS.	QUANTITIES EXPORTED.	VALUES AS RETURNED.	TOTAL.
	Piculs.	Taels.	Taels.
Foochow and Pagoda Anchorage	1,000 per annum	about annually	
Amoy	1,000 per annum	500	1,000
Swatow	1,000 per annum	500	1,000
Chefoo	8,000	4,000	4,000
Tientsin	8,000	4,000	4,000
Newchwang			
Kiukiang			
Hankow			
Ichang			
Shasi			
Wenchow	10,000 per annum	500	5,000
Ningpo	18,000	900	9,000
Chinkiang			
Soochow	300,000 per annum	150,000	150,000
Wuhu	10,000 per annum	5,000	5,000
Kiukiang			
Hankow			
Ichang			
Shasi			
Chungking	10,000 per annum	5,000	5,000
Foochow	5,000 per annum	2,500	2,500
Pagoda Anchorage			
Amoy	40,000 per annum	20,000	20,000
Swatow			
Chefoo	10,000 per annum	5,000	5,000
Tientsin	10,000	5,000	5,000
Newchwang			
Total	—	—	1,003,500

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[Text continued from page 138.]

The price is about the same as it was twenty years ago, but the quantity has increased fourfold. The potato was first introduced into the Hills in 1830 by Mr. David Scott, who was then the Governor-General's Agent. "No greater boon could have been conferred upon the people." The local trade is entirely in the hands of the Khásiás themselves, and the larger portion of the produce is despatched direct to Calcutta. According to the registration returns of inter-traffic in Bengal, the export of pineapples (including segmentless) from Sylhet in 1878-79 was 113,018 annually, valued at Rs. 56,509, or £5,650, at the rate of Rs. 3 per annual.

[197]
[244]

The export of oranges in 1878-79 was 9,400,000 in number, valued at Rs. 37,600, at the rate of Rs. 12 per 1000. These figures apparently show a great decrease since 1838. At that time Mr. Inglis possessed the entire monopoly of the trade, by means of the leases which he held from the Khási Chiefs of all the valuable groves. The annual produce of his groves was estimated at forty-five millions of oranges, having increased from eleven millions within the

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648

previous twenty years. The oranges, like the lime, were brought down to the Jaglai depôt at Chhatak, where they were sold to the dealers at the rate of about Rs. 2. 12 per 1000, or less than half their present estimated price. It is stated in Mr. Allen's Report, that the Calcutta market was then chiefly supplied from the groves of Shella Pingi and Sat Pingi, the produce of the other villages was more perishable, and required to be sold in the neighbouring Districts. The fruit is known in Calcutta as "Sylhet oranges." The Bengal registration returns for 1876-77 show a total export from Sylhet of 64,915 maunds of "fruit," valued at Rs. 1,59,915, or £15,991.

The export of raw cotton appears to have greatly increased. In 1876-77 the total quantity exported was 36,000 maunds, valued at Rs. 1,08,000, or £10,800, at the rate of Rs. 3 per maund. Twenty years before the export had been only 14,000 maunds, valued at Rs. 42,000, at the rate of only Rs. 3. 8 per maund. The cotton is of inferior quality, with a short and woolly staple. It is chiefly consumed by the Sylhet women. The total registered export from that District in 1876-77 was only 1,500 maunds, valued at Rs. 6,500, at the high rate of Rs. 0-5 per maund.

The chief article of import now, as twenty years ago, is rice; for the hillmen have never grown sufficient for their own consumption, and the recent establishment of the Civil Station of Shillong has increased the demand. In 1876-77 the total imports of rice were estimated at 203,800 maunds, valued at Rs. 7,01,500, or £70,150, at the rate of Rs. 3. 8 per maund. Twenty years ago the imports were nearly as great, viz. 172,000 maunds; but the value was only Rs. 103,000, at the rate of Rs. 0. 8 per maund, or less than one half the present value. The chief source of supply is Sylhet District, which sends its surplus to the tea-gardens of Cachár, as well as to these Hills, and also exported, in the year 1876-77, 214,000 maunds of rice and 233,000 maunds of paddy into Bengal.

The importation of fish (fresh and dried) has enormously increased. In 1876-77 the total amount was 33,500 maunds, valued at Rs. 215,000, or £21,500, at the rate of Rs. 6 per maund. Twenty years ago the value was only Rs. 20,000, but the quantity is not given. The preparation of dried fish is a flourishing industry in the adjoining District of Sylhet.

The importation of cotton cloth has increased in an almost equal proportion. The value in 1876-77 was Rs. 138,000, or £13,800, as

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

against Rs. 25,000, or £1,500, twenty years earlier. The supply of piece-goods is derived directly from Dacca.

A curious feature in the caste of the Khási and Jáintí Hills is the total absence of Marwárí or Jain merchants—an unvarying class, who are found everywhere else in Assam, even in the farthest corners of the Brahmaputra valley. There are a few Bengálí traders from Dacca, who do not take up a permanent residence in the Hills; but the great bulk of the business remains in the hands of the natives, who themselves may be pedlers and are said to be keen at a bargain.

The principal markets at the foot of the Hills, on the Sylhet side, are Shellgáon, Chhátak, Lakkái, Jaintápur, Jalláp, Phenchúmáí, Mánáing, Pomrá, Sándpur, Nohkhái, and Lenglái. Many of these are situated within the Sylhet boundary; but they are all frequented by Khási and Synteng traders, who spend their whole time in passing from one market village to another. The markets so held are held at regular intervals of eight days (for the Khási week consists of this number), with the object of promoting the same people to visit the different places in rotation.

Capital.—Such little capital as the people possess is either employed in trade or lent out upon interest. In a few cases it is hoarded and allowed to remain idle. In small loan transactions, whether articles are pledged as security or not, the interest usually charged is one *dimá* in the rupee per month, or 75 per cent. per annum. In larger transactions the rate of interest per month varies from 1 to 3 per cent. Nothing is charged in the name of interest where lands are mortgaged as security for a loan, as the land is always made over to the mortgagee in lieu thereof, and he is only bound to restore it on payment of the amount lent. In petty advances for agricultural purposes, part of the produce is given by the cultivator at something less than market rates in repayment of the amount borrowed. Limestone quarrying is the only industry in the District carried on by European agency.

Revenue and Expenditure.—The revenue realised from the Khási and Jáintí Hills has increased considerably in recent years. As the Khási States are treated as semi-independent, the receipts from that portion of the District are altogether insignificant, with the exception of the dues levied from the lime quarries. The larger part of the revenue in Jáintí is derived from the house tax. For 1835, when British authority was first established in the Khási Hills,